

MONTANA PATIENT SAFETY ACT
HB 83: To Create a Prescription Drug Registry for Montana

Coalition Partners

American Academy of Pain Management * American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MT * CSKT Tribal Health Department Head Kevin Howlett
New West Health Services * MBCC * MT Department of Justice * MT Medical Association
MT Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians * MT Pain Initiative
MT Nurses Association * MT Pharmacy Association

A Prescription Drug Registry is a database of Schedule II-V drugs filled in Montana that prescribers and pharmacists can reference when writing or filling prescriptions to verify their patients' medication histories. The registry is an important tool that can help healthcare providers make the best treatment decisions for their patients.

The Coalition Partners support HB 83 because they know something must be done to reduce drug abuse and diversion in Montana. They understand we must ensure that patients who truly need prescription medications get them, while preventing pill-seekers from obtaining drugs.

Benefits of a Prescription Drug Registry

- ✓ Drug Abuse & Diversion Prevention: A prescription drug registry will deter those who would otherwise misuse or sell these drugs.
- ✓ Improved Patient Care: Doctors can use information from the registry to supplement patient evaluations and confirm their patients' medical histories.
- ✓ Early Intervention: Healthcare providers may use the registry to help identify patients in need of substance abuse treatment in the earliest stages of misuse or addiction.
- ✓ Public Health Initiative: Public health officials can use statistics from the registry, with personal information removed, to monitor trends and address prescribing problems.

As of January 2011...

- ✓ 43 states have passed legislation authorizing prescription drug registries.
- ✓ Registries are fully operational in 34 states.
- ✓ All 4 states surrounding Montana have prescription drug registries.

The Invisible Epidemic

- Prescription drugs are now the 2nd most commonly abused illicit substance, behind only marijuana.
- Prescription drugs are the drugs of choice for 12-13 year olds.
- In Montana, prescription drugs contribute to over 300 deaths each year.
- Montana teens have the 3rd highest rate of prescription pain-killer abuse, with 10% reporting past-month, non-medical use of these powerful drugs.
- Nationwide, prescription drug abuse costs public and private insurers \$72.5 billion annually.
- One third of Montanans know someone personally who has had a problem with prescription drug abuse.